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Ogonek, No 28, 1951.

## USSR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OPERATION DESCRIBED

Information in this report is from an article by S. Mesyatsev, describing the operations of an aerial cartography unit of the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography under the Council of Ministers USSR. The original article was so sketchy that it does not seem unlikely that it was censored.

Aircraft belonging to the aerial cartography unit have the letter " $\phi$ " /"F" for fotos"yemka: photography/ painted on their wings. They also have large glass cupolas situated in the forward part of the fuselage. They are equipped with a sun-shadow compass for keeping the plane on course during a photographic run. This compass, designed by Soviet engineers and mounted in a glass dome overhead, determines the position of the plane in relation to the sun. The pilot is guided by a shedowy line across the face of the compass; the slightest deviation from course causes a deflection of this line. No mention is made of a gyroscopic

Angle of drift is measured by drift indicators located behind the glass cupolas.

The camera is located in the floor of the cabin. The scale of the photographs is 1:60,000. A flight of one hour resulted in the photographing of 1,500 square kilometers. One of the planes photographed the fields of a kolkhoz for a new land utilization map. The other photographed a mine basin where new mines are to be dug.

Each aircraft is equipped with a statoscope, which records, by a broken line on a film, any deviations in altitude that the plane made during the flight.

The laboratory of the unit is in a nearby village.

Vadim Semenovich Mel'nikov is the head of the expedition /sic/. N. D. Bogomolor is the senior aerial photographer of the unit.

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- L. I. Luk'yanov, recently a pupil of Bogomolov, graduated 3 years ago from an aerial photography school /probably the Moscow School of Aerial Photography, identified in Moskovskiy Komsomolets, 9 July 1950, as being located at Gorokhovskiy perculok, h Moscow/. Last spring Luk'yanov was engaged in photographing the Zhiguley region from the air in order to produce large-scale maps needed by the builders of the Kuybyshev Hydroelectric Center. /Luk'yanov's position in the unit is not given.
- A. S. Yegorov and N. N. Potapov are both navigators-aerial photographers. In the only photograph accompanying the article, Yegorov is pictured seated in one of the glass observation cupolas; what appears to be a metal bar curving across his shoulder and chest has evidently been placed there to prevent an observer from being sucked from the plane should the glass "bubble" burst.
- ${\tt N.\ I.}$  Kuznetsov and D. K. Surovnev are pilots. Kuznetsov has piloted an aerial photography plane for 17 years.

Bogomolov, Yegorov, and Aleksandr Makarovich Arutyunyants / the latter presumably not connected with this unit discovered Pobeda Peak in the Tyan'-Shan' mountains 8 years ago.

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